

# CATS IN THE COMMUNITY 2016 SPONSORS

The Geelong Cats acknowledges the following sponsors and funding bodies for their support of its community programs:

### Proudly sponsored by:



With the generous support of the Geelong Cats Community Foundation.





MESSAGE FROM BRIAN COOK

Five years ago the Club committed to 'deep dives', taking our community work from reactive response across thousands of requests to driving meaningful change in our community. Our Club wanted to leverage its unique position to 'make things happen' and lead community development initiatives that reflect the principles our players live by every day.

Our determined focus has been 'empowering young people to make good choices'. Our programs have been co-developed, by experts in the field, to ensure that they are ethically sound. We are proud of our suite of programs – BioCATS, Just Think, Cyber Cats and Closing the Gap. We have identified and responded to important social issues across the Geelong region with a key focus on young people and health. Our programs address issues relevant to young people including alcohol and other drugs, and safe drinking behaviours, online safety, healthy lifestyles and cultural connection and identity for young indigenous people.

We have partnered with two local programs – Read the Play and Ladder Geelong – and are proud of the difference these programs make in the mental health space as well as youth homelessness.

Our Deakin Cats Community Centre has had over 65,000 visitations since the doors opened in June 2013. Ninety-five different groups have utilised our space to run programs that encourage more people to be physically active, link to regional thinking about health and wellbeing for a number of population groups and increase opportunities for people to access educational pathways.

We have been active in encouraging participation in schools, junior football clubs and Auskick Centres across the Geelong region as well as working closely with various charity and community groups. From 2012 - 2016 we granted wishes for 107 seriously ill and dying people. It is something our Club takes much pride in, we always say 'yes' to these requests.

Our players have shown excellent community leadership and I particularly would like to congratulate Dan Menzel on being awarded the Club Community Champion, Jimmy Bartel on winning the Jim Stynes Community Leadership Award and Harry Taylor, who won the Tom Hafey Variety Heart of Football Award.

BRIAN COOK GEELONG CATS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# MESSAGE FROM **DANIEL MENZEL**

I am so honoured to have taken out the 2016 Geelong Cats Community Champion Award.

I have loved my involvement as an Ambassador for the Barwon Health Foundation since 2013. I enjoy my coaching roles and get so much out of seeing young men develop their passion and skills in football. The ability to be able to give back has given me joy and shaped me to be the person I am today.

DANIEL MENZEL 2016 CLUB COMMUNITY CHAMPION

### CLUB MISSION

To be the greatest team of all; a club people can be proud of because of how we play the game, live our values, conduct business and engage with the *community*.



### 2012-2016 ECATS IN NUMBERS

984 î 15 FRE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SESSIONS

grass root football development clinics and visits have been delivered to over...

77,322

120,000

Young people aged 10-18 have directly benefitted from a Cats in the Community program



136

young Aboriginal people from the Barwon South West region have taken part in The Gathering Camp schools program

HEALTHY CATS 25,000

Healthy Cats recipe books have been distributed to every primary school in the region

5812

students learnt about the maths and science behind football and the importance of eating well and looking after their bodies though the **BioCATS** program

People have participated in health and wellbeing programs at our state of the art Deakin Cats Community Centre. 650





### **COMMUNITY ACCESS PARTNERS** have used the Deakin Cats Community Centre

kids through our School Cats, Footy Cats, Auskick and Country Game initiative





# 6,000

Hours of player and coach's appearance time has been contributed across our foundation.







students have greater knowledge on cyber safety after attending the Cyber Cats schools program







#### In partnership with



2016 NUMBERS

111

568

496

444

1,619

PROGRAMS STUDENTS

Term 1

Term 2

Term 3

Term 4

TOTAL



1,619 students from across Victoria, put on a GPS unit or jumped their highest jump and handballed their way into finding out what it takes to be an elite athlete. Students were able to compare their results to the Cats players. With skills and testing only making up part of the experience, students also learnt the importance of nutrition and maintaining an active lifestyle!

"I think that BioCATS is a great program. I learnt that football isn't just about kicking the ball, it has science behind it and that nearly every job has something to do with maths/science."

- Genevieve, Torquay College

"What a terrific day we have had. The program was highly educational whilst also engaging for every child that attended. It's great that there is so much follow up work we can do once back at school. The facilities were amazing and the day has flown. Thanks so much for the experience!" - Fyans Park PS

The BioCATS partnership and program was built on a shared recognition of the need for innovative, new and engaging learning experiences for the education community in Geelong. The program is an innovative educational experience which models behaviour change for schools, teachers and parents. The BioCATS program content is distinctly aimed at building an experience for students to better understand the world around them and the way in which physical activity can positively influence their lives, learning, and future career pathways. - Yvonne van der Ploeg, Director, BioLAB

#### Student outcomes

- 98% understand the relationship between energy and food intake choices
- 90% of students understand the importance of physical exercise on a daily basis
- 100% say BioCATS was a positive experience

	and Profes

#### 5 COMMUNITY REPORT



"Cyber Cats is a full day program working with students to increase their online safety behaviours and general wellbeing. The program's strengths lie in its targeted approach and highly engaging content and delivery. Headspace Geelong is extremely proud to collaborate with the Geelong Cats on this important youth initiative since the program's inception in 2012."

word

ISCO

Lauren Hogan Community Engagement Officer Headspace Geelong



To keep up with the growth of technology and cyber trends, the Geelong Cats Community team along with Headspace Geelong and Barwon Child Youth and Family reviewed the Cyber Cats program in 2016.

Along with the core themes of cyber bullying, password protection and digital reputation, additional topics such as online gaming and gambling were presented and the 450 plus students that participated in the program were also introduced to tools on what to do if you are a bystander of bullying online.

Victoria Police also continued their support in the program in 2016 and attended each session to present to and inform students of the legal side of online behaviour.

Young people may often see that something isn't right but not have the confidence or the words to know what to do or what to say. In an alternate way of helping students be comfortable in doing this, the Cyber Cats program hosted over 20 different Cats players



who put on costumes and played a part in the student's movies and assisted them in acting out different scenarios.

These videos are not only a highlight of the day, but a powerful tool to take back to the school to empower others to make good decisions online.











With the launch of the Club's third Reconciliation Action Plan during 2016, the Cats continued their relationship and programs for the local Aboriginal young people from Geelong and the Barwon South West.

During the April school holidays over 30 young people from years 5 and 6 attended an overnight camp held at Eumeralla Scout Camp in Anglesea. With visits from Steve Motlop, Darcy Lang, Nakia Cockatoo and Zac Bates the students took part in activities focusing on cultural connection, healthy lifestyles and identity. The camp participants were also part of our member's clinic where they were able to meet most of our playing group.

Our program for young people in years 7 to 12 was an art project held both in Geelong and the South West. 21 students participated in art workshops held either locally or in Warrnambool. The students heard from Uncle Rob Lowe who assisted with their designs and traditional story telling through art. In Geelong, the young artists were guided by Nathan Patterson and Corinna Eccles. Held at Narana Creations and Target Head Office, the sessions covered traditional art techniques, design and storytelling and this resulted in the students creating their own Geelong Cats Indigenous designs.

Both these programs concluded in our Close the Gap match day versus GWS in round 11. All our participants came along to the game, with our artists proudly displaying their art work on field before the game. The winning art work, designed by Piper Knox, was the main feature on the Cats banner!

The contribution of local Aboriginal community members continues to be crucial to the success of these programs and we sincerely thank all those who were involved.

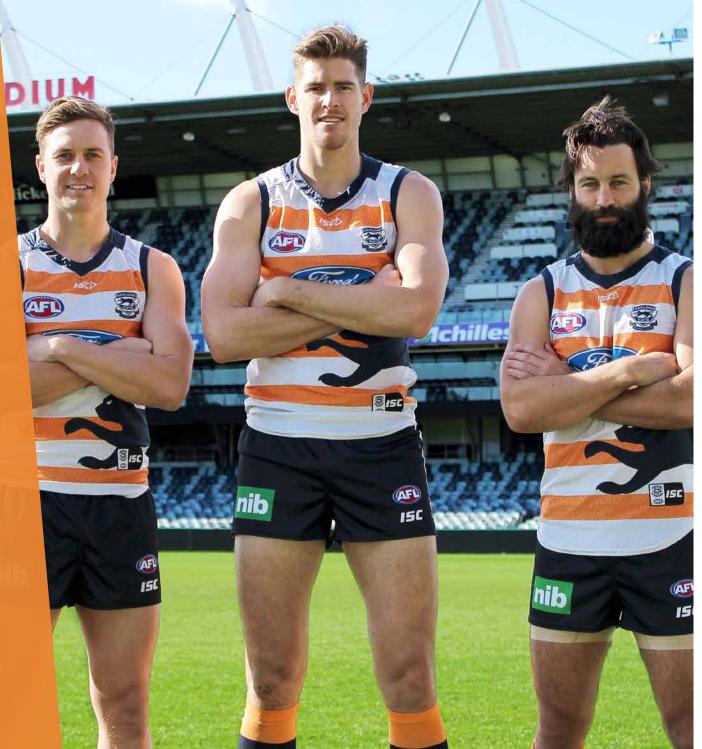
"I know they have all walked away with having stronger understanding of health and education as well as being more connected with other Aboriginal children which strengthens their cultural identity and pride." Corrina Eccles, Waddawurrung Traditional woman



"I think that most young people this age should fully understand the impact that alcohol has on the brain, I especially think that if they were to understand what a standard drink is they would decrease the amount that they consume in one go."

"Thank you for the outstanding Just Think program that you conducted for the AFL Geelong SEDA program today. The program was very informative and the most engaging delivery I have seen of this content. You all worked so well together and presented with the highest professionalism, especially across some challenging and difficult topics."

Shane Collins AFL Geelong SEDA





The Just Think schools program continued to grow and engage young people in 2016 through a program targeted at year 9 students and an awareness campaign.

Over 330 students took part in a full day program delivered by the Geelong Cats and Barwon Child, Youth & Family which included measuring a standard drink sizes to putting on beer goggles and feeling the effect that alcohol has on the body. These experiential learning activities provide important practical tips on staying safe and ways in which peer pressure associated with drinking can be managed.

The Just Think awareness campaign also included all local football and netball clubs within the greater Geelong region and the wider community, which was launched via the round 19 Just Think match day at Simonds Stadium.

In partnership with DEAKIN Worldly Barwon child, youth & family





#### 2016 FIGURES

- 94% of students who took part in the Just Think schools program reported that they had learnt something new
- 77% of students felt that the Just Think program is the best way to teach young people about alcohol and drugs as **75%** of students agreed the content of the day would make young people their age think twice about drinking

Proudly sponsored by









"The Geelong Cats have been proud partners of Read the Play since our inception in 2006. Through the provision of player ambassadors and program content, the Geelong Cats greatly support our program's aim in improving the health and wellbeing of young people in our region. We look forward to working together across a number of different projects and programs into the future."

Michael Parker. Manager, Read the Play

Over 15,000 young people across Geelong have a greater understanding of mental illness, signs and symptoms and know where to go for help

Targeting the junior levels of sports clubs, the Kempe Read the Play program engages young players using fun and interactive games to educate messages about mental illness, remove the stigma of mental health and increase help seeking behaviour. The program is delivered by mental health workers along with the sporting club's Player Wellbeing Officer.

Since the program's commencement in 2006 across Geelong, Read the Play has grown out of sight and is now delivered across seven regions throughout Victoria, NSW and South Australia. The aims of the program; to increase knowledge and awareness about mental health problems, increase knowledge about local support services and to increase confidence and skills in guiding our youth to relevant support services, have now been delivered in over 120 programs to over 4000 participants in 2016.



### LADDER

TACKLING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE GEELONG CATS

Ladder provides young people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness the opportunity to take control of their lives. Working in partnership, they provide housing, services and programs to young people to develop their skills, improve their health and wellbeing, and connect them with education and training opportunities.

The programs are tailored to the individual needs of the young person who are continually supported by a Ladder Development Coach. The ultimate aim of Ladder is to provide the young person with the skills and support they need to transition into independence.

Ladder is the official charity of the AFL players and is a national partner of the AFL. Every time an AFL player takes to the field, they donate \$25 to Ladder. Players also support Ladder as staff, mentors, advocates and volunteers.

Throughout 2016, Ladder Geelong continued to be supported by the Geelong Cats. The program saw up to 12 young people in attendance at each of their sessions which were held in the Deakin Cats Community Centre.

Cam Guthrie, Josh Cowan, Darcy Lang, Josh Caddy, Michael Luxford and Jed Bews provided input, knowledge and advice on topics such as goal setting and leadership in these sessions.

- Ten young people are still engaged in the wrap around services provided and are living in self-contained units in Geelong
- •





#### **SINCE INCEPTION IN 2012**

THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED:

- 17 of the 19 young homeless people supported in Geelong by Ladder are now living independently with a roof over their heads
  - Seven young people are no longer requiring Ladder support, with two going on to University and three in employment
  - The Geelong Cats players have donated over \$63,000 from their match fees through the AFL Players Association
  - The club provides the Deakin Cats Community Centre free of charge for program delivery space and has harnessed its networks and profile to boost funds, awareness and demonstrate the benefits of the Ladder program in the Geelong region



"The Cats players were so genuine and great to work with. Cam Guthrie even followed up on a young person and wished them happy birthday via Facebook. Often players would pop their head in and say hi, even when they weren't assigned a community visit for our session. The young people were encouraged by their effort."

Jason Davenport Development Coach, Ladder Geelong

## WELCOME TO GEELONG

When families are settled in Australia for humanitarian reasons, part of their settlement is wanting to connect to Australian culture and to have a sense of belonging. After a difficult journey and often traumatic events feeling welcomed into your new community and country is so important. The Cats wish is to support and encourage Geelong's new Australians to enjoy our game and to connect to other Australians through belonging to a club.

Welcome to Geelong was held on June 26th. Working closely with Diversitat and AFL Victoria, 120 members of our newly arrived communities spent the day with us in the Deakin Cats Community Centre and around the stadium. Children and adults alike enjoyed the football activities and meeting our very own Half Cat after a BBQ catered by the Cats Cheer Squad. As many of the participants had limited English, interpreters were arranged through Diversitat to ensure everyone could ask guestions and learn about our wonderful game of Australian Rules Football. To top off the fun, all the attendees were provided with a show bag of goodies and a ticket to Cats v Essendon.





### HEALTHY CATS

In 2015, the Geelong Cats Community Team along with Healthy Together Geelong, funded by the Victorian Government, launched the Healthy Cats Recipe Book. Featuring recipes from all 46 players on the list, each recipe was assessed by Nutrition Australia, Victorian Division against the School Canteens and Other School Food Services Policy, and adopted the 'traffic light' system where all food and drinks were classified as GREEN, AMBER and RED according to their nutrition content.

**GREEN** – The healthiest choices

AMBER – Consumed in moderation

#### **RED** – Foods that should be eaten rarely

Primary schools around the Geelong region all received a class set of the Healthy Cats Recipe Book along with all students that participated in the 2015 BioCATS program.

In 2016, the Healthy Cats Recipe Book was revamped with assistance from our club dietitian, sponsorship from Bisinella and endorsement from the AFL and BioLAB, Victorian Maths and Bioscience Education Centre. Recipes were grouped into 'during training', 'pre-game' and 'post game' categories.

Featured throughout the recipe book, was nutrition tips and spaces for students to create their own recipes! The 2016 edition of the Healthy Cats Recipe Book was distributed throughout the BioCATS program.



#### Dear Geelong Cats,

through his school. few "rookie" Cats players.

food is often healthier.

Being actively involved in your community is more beneficial than you may think. It's my hope that we will continue to use the Healthy Cats recipes to encourage our young fella to continue eating healthy and hopefully, making them on his own.

Ballarat East

My son recently attended the BioCats program

We received very good feedback from him about the activities presented and having met a

I am writing to express my appreciation and thanks for the wonderful Healthy Cats recipe book handed out to students who attended this program. As a family, we enjoy cooking and eating as healthy as we can. All the recipes in this book were very appealing in the photos. So, of course we had to try a few that were too good to pass up. There are eight recipes we often make such as scratch pancakes, eggs on toast, avocado on toast, chicken salads and roast lamb with lots of veggies.

From the Healthy Cats recipe book, we each chose 1-2 recipes that we wished to try last week. In total, we have tried 10 of the recipes. The top three favourites are: Sesame Beef Stir Fry, Chicken Rissoles & Mash with extra veggies and Ham, Cheese & Pineapple Toasted Sandwich. My personal favourite is the Chicken, Chilli, tomato & Avo Jaffles.

The recipes in the Healthy Cats not only provide great nutritional value. We found in preparing these meals, they also provided financial value. We prefer cooking and baking using good quality ingredients and fresh food. We strive to teach our children the value of a good dollar and how cooking your own

Thank you again for providing a simple and healthy new recipe book to your young participants and their families.

Kindest regards, Janette Martin & Family



### **DEAKIN CATS** COMMUNITY CENTRE



Home to all foundation programs and a home away from home to our community access partners, the Deakin Cats Community Centre has welcomed over 65,000 people through its doors since opening in June 2013. The Centre was funded by the Victorian State Government as part of the redevelopment of the Plavers Stand.

In 2016 alone, over 50 different groups who encourage healthy and active lifestyles for all ages and abilities have utilised the Deakin Cats Community Centre, free of charge, for conferences, meetings, workshops, seminars and the like.

"Leisure Networks regularly utilises the Deakin Cats Community Centre for a broad range of programs, and events including our Totally Sport School Holiday Program, Club Development workshops, Responsible Service of Alcohol Workshops and Whole of Organisation Team Days.

Our clients, including a broad range of sporting clubs, relish the opportunity to attend events at the iconic stadium. As a not-for-profit community based organisation, the ability to access a world class facility to connect our communities is truly appreciated." Brooke Connolly Team Leader – Sport, Recreation & Health Leisure Networks

The 'Gartland Heritage Centre', which adjoins the largest of rooms in the Deakin Cats Community Centre, showcases rotating displays that take you on a journey through time with the Geelong Football Club. The exhibitions have a focus on highlighting milestone games, key moments in the Club's history and pays tribute to players past and present. Housing countless trophies, medals, memorabilia and of course the illustrious first Brownlow medal, it truly is a special area within the Centre.

The Geelong Football Club recognises the valuable partnership with Deakin University, as naming rights sponsor of the purpose built facility and great collaborators across a number of programs at the Cats.

"The support of your venue and service has made a real difference to the way we are able to support, educate and engage our workforce and this therefore impacts on the quality of support we provide to individuals and groups within the community"

- Dianne Rhodes, Program Manager NEXTT



# HOME TO ALL FOUNDATION PROGRAMS





DIFFERENT COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS. 54 DIFFERENT COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN 2016 ALONE



# FOOTY CATS

Geelong Cats is committed to investing in community and grassroots football.

38 local football clubs received a visit from the players, who conducted training drills and sessions for the junior teams.

Each year, in partnership with AFL Barwon and local Auskick centres, 52 centres throughout the Geelong region are invited onto Simonds Stadium to attend the Auskick Super Clinic.

The Cats players are there to provide expert advice, lend a helping hand, snap some photos with their fans and give out autographs.

In 2016, each junior football club received a fundraising pack which included a signed 2016 guernsey, limited edition signed ball and print.



"Would like to thank the Geelong Football Club and its players for the outstanding contributions you make to local community clubs. The Newcomb Power Football Club has been fortunate enough to have Jimmy Bartel, Mitch Clark, Billie Smedts and Jordan Cunico at our Schools Super Clinic Day, Josh Cowan at our Auskick Session and Jordan Murdoch at our junior training. All players have been willing to participate, have photos and sign autographs for all members and students. We appreciate the gifts you present our club to help raise funds for our junior section."

Newcomb Power Football Club

## COUNTRY **DAY**

In February 2016 the entire playing list headed down to the Western Districts to visit country towns like Port Fairy, Cobden, Simpson, Hawkesdale, Warrnambool and places alike to promote the game of footy. Over 30 school visits were conducted with classroom talks and footy clinics. A highlight of the trip was the Leadership Forum conducted by four key Geelong Cats players with student leaders from the local high schools in Warrnambool, as well as the inaugural women's footy clinic.



# SCHOOL CATS

Through our commitment to engage young people throughout the Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast, Colac and Western District's, 102 schools played host to the Geelong Cats players in 2016.

Primary schools and high schools were able to choose the focus of their visits from football clinics, class question & answer to leadership sessions which resulted in over 7000 students being exposed to the game of AFL while learning new skills, finding out about the life of an AFL Footballer and learning what it takes to be a leader.

Each primary school student received a giveaway poster and a 'healthy eating ruler'.

AFL Barwon, through the AFL School Ambassador Program, works closely with the Geelong Cats to deliver the School Cats program.



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"The School Cats Program that operates across all schools in the Geelong region is simply outstanding!

Our school welcomed the efforts by Jock Cornell and Joel Selwood to visit our College. They were punctual and immediately made our students feel valued and special and in fact it was the players who were special. They are fantastic role models and they realised the importance of their visit and went over and above to make sure their information was age appropriate and was informative, meaningful and humorous. The messages from the players certainly made a huge impact on the students and their role as Educators of our youth is quite profound."

Pete Raidme Student Wellbeing Manager Surf Coast Secondary College

### CATS CARE

Geelong Cats, through its players, has a long standing history and commitment of supporting local charities and people in need. Over the past five years we have partnered with;

- Barwon Health Foundation; conducting ward walks at the University Hospital and assisting in fundraising opportunities
- Gateways Support Services; facilitating footy clinics, providing tickets to Geelong Cats matches and assisting in fundraising opportunities
- Cottage by the Sea; attending camps, providing tickets to Geelong Cats matches and assisting in fundraising activities
- Starlight Children's Foundation; visiting the Starlight Express Room and assisting in fundraising campaigns
- Give Where You Live; assisting in fundraising opportunities

"Over my 22 years in the medical industry, as you can appreciate I have attended many of these events however, I would rank this one near the top of the list. I just wanted to take this opportunity to provide some feedback on the Barwon Paediatric Health event, 'Dream, Achieve, Succeed'; The Geelong players were exceptional. Once again, I have seen many celebrities attend events like this and there is usually minimal involvement however they were completely engaged and conducted themselves in a manner that they and the Geelong FC should be very proud of." - Craig Berry



### CATS WISHES

In 2016, the Geelong Cats facilitated 27 special wishes, ranging from pre-game inner sanctum experiences, mascot opportunities, VIP training experiences, being part of the Guard of Honour on match day or as simple as providing match day tickets to attend games, signed photos or merchandise.

"A quick note to say a special thank you to the Geelong Football club for the tickets and all your wonderful support in helping the Kinship carer's and the children and young people in their care get this amazing opportunity." - Pamela, Kinship

"I cannot thank you, Joel Selwood and the Geelong Football Club for letting my son William (Will) run through the banner with the team. Will had received over 70 blood transfusions before undergoing a bone marrow transplant in 2013 at the Royal Children Hospital Melbourne. The transplant was a success and on the 13/3/2014 he was given a clean bill of health. Thank you once again as this has been a highlight I will never forget and I am sure that Will will not either." - Chris Reily





## CATS ASSIST

We are proud to say that in 2016, over 10,000 items have been sent out to school, charity and fundraising groups, remote and international communities and individuals in times of hardship helping tens of thousands both directly and indirectly.

THE CATS ARE **PROUD TO** HAVE HELPED **THOUSANDS** AT HOME AND FAR AWAY

ITEMS DONATED

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### **AWARDS**



### **JIMMY BARTEL**

#### 2016 JIM STYNES COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER

Jimmy was nominated for this award for his ambassador work with the Club's Just Think program, his launch of the 'Face up to DV' campaign, his role of ambassador with Cottage by the Sea and his numerous school and sporting club visits over the years with the Geelong Football Club.



AFI Barwon.



**23** COMMUNITY REPORT



### DANIEL MENZEL

### 2016 CLUB COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Dan was put forward for this award for his ambassador role with the Barwon Health Foundation where he has participated in many fundraising events and visited the hospital on many occasions.

He was the Under 14's and Under 16's Newtown Chilwell Football Club coach and this year was the Under 15's Interleague coach for

Dan has also been a key contributor to Cats Wishes.



### HARRY TAYLOR

### TOM HAFFY HEART OF FOOTBALL AWARD WINNER

Harry was nominated for this award for his ambassador work with Gateways Support Services. Being the Healthy Cats Ambassador for the Geelong Football Club, the work he does back in his home town such as ambassador for the Mid West Sports Academy where he personally sponsors the Mid West Athlete of the Year, running numerous football clinics and leadership talks and an all round role model to the other Geelong Cats players.

# CATS IN THE THE MEDIA





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# Schools build a Power base







NEWS

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### EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES



### INVESTING IN COMMUNITY AND GRASS ROOTS FOOTBALL